



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

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News Release

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Texas Veterans Commission Announces On-Line Donation Tool, Joins Lottery Commission in Announcing John Wayne Lottery Ticket

Austin – At a press conference in the state capitol on Wednesday, the Texas Veterans Commission announced the launch of an on-line donation tool for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. As of Monday, May 16 individuals and organizations are able to make a secure, tax deductible contribution on-line by going to Texas Veterans Commission website and clicking on the Fund for Veterans' Assistance logo with the red backdrop.

"When we passed the legislation creating the Fund for Veterans' Assistance we intended it to be a way for us to say thank you to the veterans of this great state for the sacrifices made by them and their families to protect our way of life," said Senator Leticia Van de Putte, Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Military Installations Committee. "The launch of the online donation capability now provides all Texans the opportunity to express their gratitude through a safe and secure tax deductible donation on line."

During the same press conference the Texas Lottery Commission announced the new John Wayne – themed \$2 scratch off lottery ticket for the *Veterans Cash* lottery game. Since its introduction on November 11, 2009, sales of *Veterans Cash* scratch-off tickets have provided over \$14.5 million to the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance.

"I encourage all the citizens of Texas to buy the John Wayne Lottery tickets and help support the Veterans Community. They have given so much to our State and it is crucial that we show our appreciation and give back," said Representative Joseph Pickett, Chair, House Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Also speaking during the press conference were T.P. O'Mahoney, Chair, Texas Veterans Commission, Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, Texas Veterans Commission, Representative Ralph Sheffield, Vice Chair, House Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee, Representative Joe Farias and John Miterko, Legislative Liaison, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations.

Seated among the many individuals in the audience were a Fund grantee organization and a veteran recipient of their services. Green Doors operates a homeless program for

veterans in Austin. Christa Noland is the Deputy Director for Green Doors. Joining her was Dennis Morris, a formerly homeless Navy veteran who is now employed and living in an apartment as a direct result of the grant Green Doors received through the Fund for Veterans' Assistance.

The Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veteran's Assistance was created by the 79th Texas Legislature in 2005 to provide aid to Veterans and their families in need. During the 81st Legislative Session, the legislature created the lottery scratch-off game to provide a secure revenue stream for the Fund. In addition to the on line tool, donations may also be made by mail, through vehicle registration renewals and through the state employee charitable contribution campaign.

For more information about the Texas Veterans Commission's Fund for Veterans' Assistance visit: <http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/about/fund-for-veterans-assistance>

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